

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (currently amended): A method for increasing the organoleptic properties of a coffee flavor provided in a food or beverage, comprising the steps-step of using a sufficient amount of an aroma-providing substance comprising a straight chain C₄ – C₅ mercapto-alkanone or a mixture of two or more thereof.

Claim 2 (previously presented): The method according to claim 1, wherein the aroma-providing substance is selected from the group consisting of 3-mercapto-2-butanone, 2-mercapto-3-pentanone, 3-mercapto-2-pentanone and mixtures of two or more thereof.

Claim 3 (previously presented): The method according to claim 1, wherein the aroma-providing substance is present in an amount effective to impart a catty-sulfury, fruity, roasty, odor character to increase the freshly brewed coffee organoleptic properties of the food or beverage.

Claim 4 (previously presented): The method according to claim 1, wherein the aroma-providing substance is used in combination with a compound selected from the group consisting of 4-methoxy-2-methylbutan-2-thiol, 4-mercapto-4-methyl-2-pentanone, methional, and 4-mercapto-4-methylbutyl formate.

Claim 5 (previously presented): The method according to claim 4, wherein the one or more of the sulfur compounds is present in an amount effective to impart a fruity, blackcurrent-sulfury, odor character to increase the freshly brewed coffee organoleptic properties of the food or beverage.

Claim 6 (previously presented): A method for increasing the organoleptic properties of a coffee flavor provided in a food or beverage which comprises providing a food or beverage and adding thereto at least one aroma-providing substance in the food or beverage in an amount sufficient to increase the coffee flavor thereof, the aroma-providing substance comprising a straight chain C₄-C₅ mercapto alkanone or a combination of two or more thereof.

Claim 7 (currently amended): A food or beverage that comprises a consumable component and at least one aroma-providing substance in an amount sufficient to increase the organoleptic properties of a coffee flavor in the food or beverage, wherein the aroma-providing substance ~~comprising~~ comprises a mixture of two or more straight chain C₄-C₅ mercapto alkanones.

Claim 8 (currently amended): A food or beverage according to claim 7, wherein the aroma-providing substance is selected from the group consisting of a mixture of two or more of 3-mercapto-2-butanone, 2-mercapto-3-pentanone ~~pentanone~~ and 3-mercapto-2-pentanone.

Claim 9 (currently amended): A food or beverage according to claim 7, comprising ~~a mixture of the aroma-providing substance selected from the group consisting of 4-methoxy-2-methylbutan-2-thiol and/or with one or more of the compounds 4-mercapto-4-methyl-2-pentanone, methional, and 4-mercapto-4-methylbutyl formate.~~

Claim 10 (previously presented): A food or beverage according to claim 7, wherein the consumable component is selected from the group consisting of a reconstitutable beverage, ready-to-drink beverage, alcoholic beverage, dough-based product, frozen confectionery product, chocolate or analogue thereof, cereal, a spreadable dairy product, dairy substitute, and mixtures thereof.

Claim 11 (new): A food or beverage according to claim 9, comprising a substance selected from the group consisting of 4-mercapto-4-methyl-2-pentanone, methional and 4-mercapto-4-methylbutyl formate.

Claim 12 (new): A food or beverage according to claim 7, comprising an additional coffee aroma substance selected from the group consisting of bis-(methylthio)methane, 1-methylthio-1-ethanethiol, 3-mercapto-3-methylbutan-2-one, pyrazines, guaiacols, furanones, aldehydes, diketones and combinations thereof.

Claim 13 (new): A food or beverage having a coffee flavor that comprises a consumable component and at least one aroma-providing substance in an amount sufficient to increase the organoleptic properties of the coffee flavor in the food or beverage, wherein the aroma-providing substance comprises a straight chain $C_4 - C_5$ mercapto alkanone or a mixture of two or more thereof.